



MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES, STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Violet Varona-Lukens, Executive Officer
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
Los Angeles, California 90012

Treasurer and Tax Collector

At its meeting held February 18, 2003, the Board took the following action:

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Supervisor Yaroslavsky made the following statement:

“The Los Angeles Times this week reported on the sad case of an 85-year old veteran man who lost a home, which after a lifetime of work and savings he owned free and clear, because of a wholly avoidable series of problems related to a single delinquent property tax bill. In this situation, there was apparently no one to help him sort out some initial confusion over a bill until, tragically, it was too late and the law had moved forward to auction off his home.

“I believe that this Board should take all necessary steps to assist property-owning seniors and others with special needs to meet their property tax obligations in a timely way to avoid a similar fate. It should not happen to anyone.”

Therefore, Supervisor Yaroslavsky made a motion that the Board instruct the Treasurer and Tax Collector to work with the Department of Community and Senior Services' Area Agency on Aging and the Director of Consumer Affairs to develop recommendations and report back to the Board at the meeting of March 4, 2003 on:

1. Ways to improve County policies regarding the collection of delinquent property tax bills from Senior Citizens and others with special needs who might require assistance in understanding and meeting their tax obligations before their homes or other property are placed in jeopardy; and
2. A separate billing notice when payments are delinquent.

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Syn. 70 (Continued)

Supervisor Antonovich also requested the Treasurer and Tax Collector to report back on a flagging system that would better notify taxpayers when taxes are past due, especially if they have paid current taxes.

Supervisor Burke made the following statement:

“Yesterday, an article appeared in the Los Angeles Times where it was reported that an 85-year old gentleman became homeless after his property, valued at over \$80,000.00 was sold at a public auction due to a delinquent \$546.00 property tax bill. This action, although legal, was tragic.”

Therefore, Supervisor Burke requested the Treasurer and Tax Collector to develop a method for identifying homeowners who are Senior Citizens, before their property is sold at public auction due to delinquent taxes and report back at the meeting of March 4, 2003 with the cost implementation.

After discussion, on motion of Supervisor Yaroslavsky and by common consent, there being no objection, the Board instructed the Treasurer and Tax Collector to work with the Department of Community and Senior Services' Area Agency on Aging and the Director of Consumer Affairs to develop recommendations and report back to the Board at the meeting of March 4, 2003 on:

1. Ways to improve County policies regarding the collection of delinquent property tax bills from Senior Citizens and others with special needs who might require assistance in understanding and meeting their tax obligations before their homes or other property are placed in jeopardy;
2. A separate billing notice when payments are delinquent;
3. A flagging system that would better notify taxpayers when taxes are past due, especially if they have paid current taxes; and

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Syn. 70 (Continued)

4. The cost of implementing a method for identifying homeowners who are Senior Citizens, before their property is sold at public auction due to delinquent taxes.

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Copies distributed:

- Each Supervisor
- Chief Administrative Officer
- County Counsel
- Director of Consumer Affairs
- Director of Community and Senior Services

